

Instruction

Using Animals in the Educational Program

Animals may be brought into school facilities for educational purposes according to procedures developed by the Superintendent assuring: (a) the animal is appropriately housed, humanely cared for, and properly handled, and (b) students will not be exposed to a dangerous animal or an unhealthy environment.

Experiments on living animals are prohibited; however, behavior studies that do not impair an animal's health or safety are permissible.

The dissection of dead animals or parts of dead animals shall be allowed in the classroom only when the dissection exercise contributes to or is part of an illustration of pertinent study materials. All dissection of animals shall be confined to the classroom and must comply with the School Code. The use of salvaged specimens for dissection or study does not reflect safe practice and, thus, is not permitted. Only the following specimens may be used for study or dissection purposes: (1) prepared specimens purchased from a reputable and reliable scientific supply company; or (2) fresh specimens (i.e., squid, chicken wings) purchased from an FDA-inspected facility such as a butcher shop, fish market, or supermarket.

Students who object to performing, participating in, or observing the dissection of animals are excused from classroom attendance without penalty during times when such activities are taking place. No student will be penalized or disciplined for refusing to perform, participate in, or observe a dissection. The Superintendent or designee shall inform students of: (1) their right to refrain from performing, participating in, or observing dissection, and (2) which courses contain a dissection unit and which of those courses offers an alternative project.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/2-3.122, 5/27-14, and 112/.

CROSS REF.: 6.40

Adopted: July 8, 1997

Revised: August 14, 2012

Reviewed: April 2020